

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO CONSULTATIONS

1. I HAVE HAD SEVERAL PRIVATE MEETINGS LATELY WITH OTHER PERMREPS DESIGNED BOTH TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC US CONSULTATION PROPOSALS (MINISTERIAL MEETING FORMAT NAC/POLITICAL DIRECTORS, REGIONAL EXPERTS, AREAS OUTSIDE NATO) AND TO STIMULATE SOME SORELTY NEEDED THINKING ABOUT THIS GENERAL ISSUE.

2. IN THESE SESSIONS, I HAVE STRESSED THAT IN ALL OF OUR CONSULTATIVE EFFORTS, AND AT ALL LEVELS, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TACKLE THE TOUGH ISSUES, THOSE THAT ARE REALLY IMPORTANT TO THE ALLIANCE AND NOT TO SPEND TIME ON THE INCONSEQUENTIAL OR THE NON-CONTROVERSIAL. WHILE DISAGREEMENTS CAN BE DEVISIVE, THEY ARE MORE EASILY RESOLVED, OR AT LEAST BETTER UNDERSTOOD, AFTER OPEN AND INTELLIGENT DEBATE THAN BY SUBMERSION. CERTAINLY THE KISSINGER-JOBERT EXCHANGE IN DECEMBER SHOULD BE LOOKED AT IN THAT LIGHT.

3. I HAVE ALSO STRESSED THE RECIPROCITY THEME. ITALIANPERMREP CATALANO, FOR EXAMPLE, GIGGED US FOR WHAT HE THOUGHT WERE LESS THAN FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS OPENED WHAT I HOPE WAS A USEFUL DIALOGUE FOR US BOTH ON THE CONSULTATIVE

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RELATIONSHIP -- A RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH EUROPE SHOULD NOT REALISTICALLY EXPECT US TO PURSUE A WON-WAY POLICY THAT IS BENEFICIAL ONLY TO THE EUROPEANS. I POINTED OUT THAT WE VIEWED CONSULTATION AS MUCH MORE THAN THAT AND WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO

SAY AS MUCH IN OUR RECENT PROPOSALS, IN OUR APPROACH TO THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION AND IN OUR TREATMENT OF SUCH VITAL ISSUES AS THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ENERGY MATTERS.

4. OTHER PERMREPS HAVE BEEN RECEPTIVE TO OUR VIEWS AND TO THE CHANCE TO DISCUSS THEM INFORMALLY AND OFF THE RECORD. THE VISITS HAVE ALSO AFFORDED A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO ALLAY SOME PROBLEMS THAT OTHERS HAVE HAD ABOUT OUR CONSULTATION PROPOSALS. DEPUTY SYG PENSA, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS CONCERNED THAT A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, REINFORCED BY POLITICAL DIRECTORS (AS SUGGESTED IN STATES 13642) COULD NOT REALLY BE TERMED A COUNCIL MEETING IF THE FRENCH DID NOT PARTICIPATE. I INFORMED HIM THAT OUR PROPOSAL FOR REGULAR/REINFORCED COUNCIL MEETINGS HAD BEEN RAISED JUST WITH THAT IN MIND WITH A VIEW TO OVERCOMING FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO WHAT THEY SAID THEY SAW AS A POSSIBLE ATTEMPT TO SUPPLANT THE NAC. I LATER TALKED TO FRENCH PERMREP DE ROSE TO MAKE SURE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WERE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY AND HAD ASKED JOBERT TO DECIDE THE FRENCH POSITION PERSONALLY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM IRAQ.

5. THESE MEETINGS HAVE ALSO SERVED TO PROMPT SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT DESERVE CONSIDERATION FROM THE OTHER PERMREPS. IN A VISIT WITH KRAPF (FRG) WE DISCUSSED THE IDEA THAT RATHER THAN A REPEAT OF LAST DECEMBER'S PRIVATE MINISTERIAL SESSION, WE MIGHT SET ASIDE AN HOUR EACH IN THE AGENDA FOR MINISTERS TO INFORMALLY COMMENT ON PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS FROM THE OTHERS. THIS MIGHT PROMPT EVERYONE TO DO SOME ADVANCE HOMEWORK ABOUT WHAT HIS COLLEAGUES HAD ON THEIR MINDS, AND HELP TO AVOID LONG ORAL PRESENTATION. DRAWING FROM HIS OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, KRAPF SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL MIGHT TRAVEL MORE, HOLD MEETINGS IN OTHER ALLIED CAPITALS, TALK TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE TO GET A DIFFERENT SLANT ON THINGS.

6. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY NOW TO SEE WHAT WILL COME OF OUR OWN EFFORTS ON CONSULTATION AND THOSE OF LUNS, THE BRITISH AND OTHERS, SOME HOPEFULLY PRODUCTIVE THOUGHT HAS BEEN STIMULATED. RUMSFELD

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